40 Years of God's Provision

From inception to fully recognized university, trace the story of significant milestones, moments and miracles in Redeemer's history.

1982

Redeemer College officially opens September 6 at Bell Cairn Memorial School, Beach Boulevard in Hamilton and townhouse residences on Francis Road in Burlington

Approximately 1,700 people crowd Centenary United Church for opening convocation

Redeemer receives official coat of arms and motto – Agnus Dei, Rex Omnium (Lamb of God, King over All)

97 full-time students and 63 part-time students begin their education

Eight full-time faculty members begin serving

1981

PRE-OPENING (1976-1980)

1976: Ontario Christian College Association (OCCA) is established with a distinctly Reformed constitution

1980: Bill Pr 48 (The Redeemer College Act) passes officially recognizing Redeemer Reformed Christian College and its charter

OCCA sets goal to open the college in 1982 in Hamilton

Rev. Dr. Henry De Bolster is selected to be Redeemer's first president

October 31 De Bolster is officially inaugurated at Centenary United Church in Hamilton on Reformation Day

Fundraising, student recruitment and facility selection commence

1983-1984

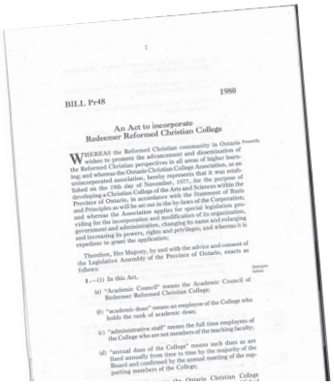
Enrolment doubles to 150 students

Four-year program solidifies with the first class to graduate in 1986

Relationship with Au Sable Institute is established

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

PSALM 37:5



BILL Pr48 1980

An Act to incorporate
Redeemer Reformed Christian College

WHEREAS the Reformed Christian community in Ontario Provincially wishes to promote the advancement and dissemination of the Reformed Christian perspectives in all areas of higher learning; and whereas Ontario Christian College Association, an as unincorporated association, hereby represents that it was established on the 19th day of November, 1977, for the purpose of developing a Christian College of the Arts and Sciences within the Province of Ontario, in accordance with the Statement of Basis and Principles as will be set out in the by-laws of the Corporation; and whereas the Association applies for special legislation providing for the incorporation and modification of its organization, government and administration, changing its name and enlarging and increasing its powers, rights and privileges; and whereas it is expedient to grant the application;

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

1.—(1) In this Act,

(a) "Academic Council" means the Academic Council of Redeemer Reformed Christian College;

(b) "academic dean" means an employee of the College who holds the rank of academic dean;

(c) "administrative staff" means the full time employees of the College who are not members of the teaching faculty;

(d) "annual dues of the College" means such dues as are fixed annually from time to time by the majority of the Board and confirmed by the annual meeting of the supporting members of the College;

... Ontario Christian College

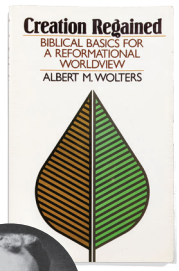
1985

250 full-time and part-time students enrol

78 acres of land is purchased in Ancaster for new campus

Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada (AUCC) grants Redeemer provisional membership

***Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview* by Dr. Al Wolters is published,** becoming foundational in Redeemer's core curriculum and to the Reformed tradition worldwide



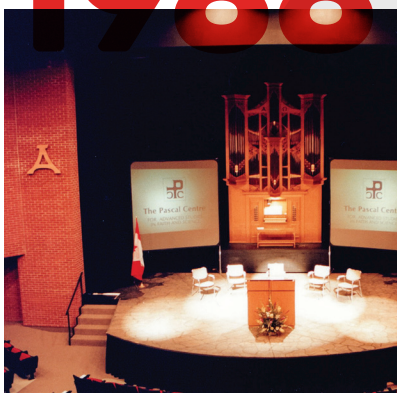
Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.

PSALM 127:1

Pascal Centre for Reformed Studies in Science and Religion is established

Riel pipe organ from the Netherlands is installed in auditorium

1988



1985

Classes begin at new Ancaster campus

279 full-time students are welcomed into residences

First graduating class of 41 students receive degrees

Charter is updated to refine Reformed identity and academic freedom

Archeologist Art Howey identifies the site of future dome as a prehistoric Indigenous Chonnonton village

1986

1987

Theatre department hosts first production, Lady Gregory's Spreading the News

Concert Choir forms

Women's volleyball wins Ontario Colleges Athletics Association (OCAA) Tier 2 Provincial Championship

Redeemer College is officially granted ordinary membership in the AUCC with bachelor of Christian studies degree

1988

LEADERSHIP INVESTMENT FOR TOMORROW

1989

Leadership Investment for Tomorrow (LIFT) fundraising campaign launches to raise $10 million

Ruth Ann Dykstra is first recipient of the Faculty Award, for student who best exemplifies academic excellence, Christian leadership and active participation in life at Redeemer

Official coat of arms is granted in a special ceremony attended by representatives of the Governor General's office

1990–1992

Redeemer College becomes member of the Association for a Reformed University

Concert Choir embarks on a tour in the Maritimes

Redeemer College

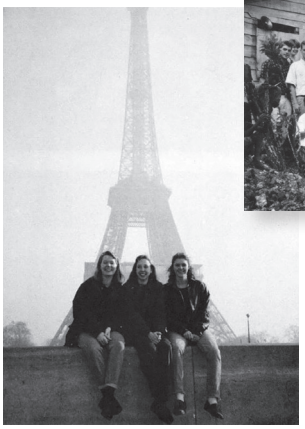
1993

Elementary education program is implemented as part of Christian School Teacher's Certificate (CSTC)

New activities for students: blood donor clinics, SERVE projects in Haiti, Dominican Republic, and new Redeemer in France study-abroad program

The women's indoor soccer team wins OCAA gold

Redeemer celebrates *Ten Years of Learning is for Serving*



10 YEARS Of Learning for Serving

1994

Dooyeweerd Centre for Christian Philosophy is established

Dr. Justin Cooper is inaugurated as second president after retirement of De Bolster

1995

Fall mainstage, Stranger in the Land, written and directed by Raymond Louter, tells story of the Netherlands' experience in Second World War and subsequent emigration of thousands to Canada, with a record 2,200 people in attendance

Matthew Cupido mural, based on Psalm 48, installed above front staircase; academic banners, designed by Willem Hart and sewn by Ina Kuntz, hung in the auditorium

Church in the Box holds first worship evening in the Black Box

1996–1997

15th academic year with 34 full-time faculty and student enrolment of 442

Redeemer passes 1,000 graduates after spring convocation

Building On The Promise

1998

Building on the Promise fundraising campaign launches to expand academic programs and facilities while keeping tuition fees lower

Ontario government passes Bill Pr17 – An Act respecting Redeemer Reformed Christian College – granting authority to offer full bachelor of arts and bachelor of sciences degrees

REDEEMER
A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

1999

Concert and Alumni Choirs release first CD

Redeemer faculty become eligible for grants from National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada's largest research funding body

Canada Council Poetry Readings is established with aid of annual grant from Canada Council for the Arts in collaboration with Hamilton Poetry Centre

Outdoor tennis and basketball courts are constructed

HSR begins transit service directly to campus

2001

Redeemer celebrates 20 years of God's faithfulness

Williams Coffee Pub opens on campus

Oxford-Crandall Study Abroad program is established

First coffeehouse event is held, a conglomerate of musical and miscellaneous-talent performances

REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
20 years
1982 - 2002

2002

2000

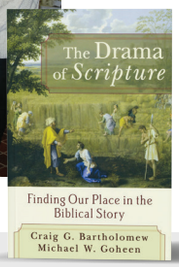
REDEEMER
University College

Ontario legislature passes Bill Pr19 and approves institutional name change to Redeemer University College

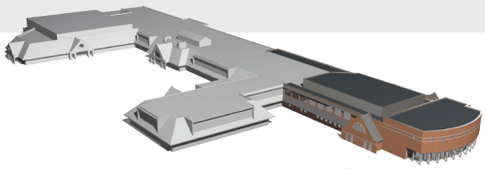
Augustine Hall three-storey residence opens

Whaley Teaching Garden is established, named in honour of property's previous owner

2007



***The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story* by Dr. Craig Bartholomew and Dr. Michael Goheen is published,** quickly becomes a hallmark of Redeemer's core program



South wing addition is completed, consisting of lecture halls and expanded library named the Peter Turkstra Library

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS 1982-2007

25th anniversary is celebrated at commemorative event

185 graduate; the largest class to date

Employers hiring Redeemer co-op students become eligible for provincial tax credit

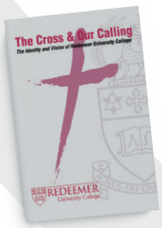
REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

2003

Ontario government passes Bill Pr14, granting Redeemer authority to offer full bachelor of education degree replacing bachelor of Christian education degree

2004

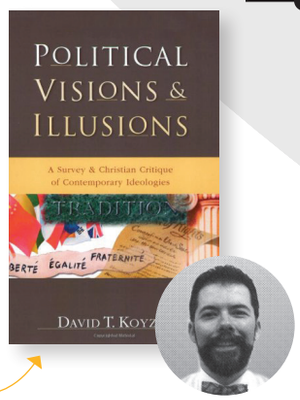
***The Cross and Our Calling* is crafted** to fully express Redeemer's religious identity and founding vision



2005

New B.Ed. program is granted initial accreditation by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT), giving Redeemer the only provincially recognized Christian teacher education program

Dr. David Koyzis publishes *Political Visions & Illusions: A Survey & Christian Critique of Contemporary Ideologies* becoming an important contribution to distinctly Christian modern political thought



2006

Second entrance at Kitty Murray Lane is constructed

Enrolment Initiative Fund launches to go beyond current 850 students

2007

185 graduate; the largest class to date

Employers hiring Redeemer co-op students become eligible for provincial tax credit

2008

Final excavation of the Chonnonton village is completed with over 50,000 unique artifacts discovered at the site since 1987

Royals win their first gold in men's indoor soccer

ROYALS

$2.9 million is received to fund capital projects such as solar panels (installed in 2011), from the Government of Canada's Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP); first time Redeemer receives government grant of any kind

Continuous Learning and Education at Redeemer (CLEAR) program launches, offering courses, workshops, lectures and excursions to the community to expand educational mission

CLEAR
CONTINUOUS LEARNING & EDUCATION AT REDEEMER

2009

Renovations are completed on administrative wing

Grant from Stronger Together is received to develop student-led community support organization called Redeemer Downtown

2010

Dr. Justin Cooper retires after 30 years of service (president for 16 years)

Dr. Hubert Krygsman is appointed third president

Jim Payton publishes *Getting the Reformation Wrong: Correcting Some Misunderstandings*, an important acknowledgement of the modern Church's connection to the early Church

Redeemer Sports Complex opens with one of the largest soccer domes in Ontario

2011

Dr. David Schuurman's *Shaping a Digital World: Faith, Culture and Computer Technology* is published, considering the relationship between faith and computer science

2012

2013

2012

Redeemer University College celebrates 30 years of Reformed Christian higher education

Health sciences program launches

REDEEMER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE 30 years 1982 • 2012

REDEEMER
Centre for Christian Scholarship

2015

Centre for Christian Scholarship is established (now the Albert M. Wolters Centre for Christian Scholarship)

New media and communications studies program launch (MCS)

Owen Kurvits wins CCAA National Championship in men's singles badminton; later named the first three-time Male Player of the Year in OCAA history

Re campaign launches as public fundraising initiative for the 2020 Strategic Plan

Centre for Experiential Learning and Careers launches (CELC - now the Career Centre)

Redeemer partners with McMaster University, Mohawk College and the City of Hamilton to launch CityLAB, providing students with interdisciplinary projects that have a tangible, positive impact on the city

2014

2020 Strategic Plan is adopted with ambitious goal to raise $20 million by 2020

Distinguished Alumni Award is established to recognize alumni who make significant contributions in their field and demonstrate Christian commitment in their work and community; Graham Cubitt '01, director of projects and development at Homestead Christian Care (now Indwell), is first recipient

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD 2014

2015

Rev. Dr. Henry De Bolster, founding president, passes away; Redeemer commemorates his leadership, faith and courage

President Dr. Hubert Krygsman steps down in October

New core curriculum launches with set of 10 courses for every student to deepen their faith into all areas of life as they prepare for their chosen disciplines

Resound **(in print and online) replaces former flagship magazine, *Tangents***

Curtiss Straatsma (women's volleyball) is named OCAA Player of the Year – first in Redeemer's history

2016

2017

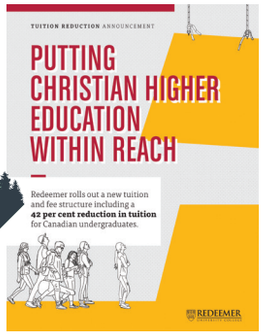
2018

Urban and intercultural ministry program launches, weaving together missions, theology and practical ministry tools

Business professors Busuttil and Van Weelden's best-selling business textbook, *Banff Aspen Lodge* is incorporated into curriculum at Harvard Business School

Dr. Robert Graham is appointed as Redeemer's fourth president

2018



Major tuition and fee restructuring is announced with 42 per cent tuition reduction for Canadian undergraduate students, prompted by a generous $11 million donation

Eight-month Christian gap year program, Act Five, is launched in collaboration with five Christian high schools

Re campaign raises $18.5 million, the most successful campaign in Redeemer's history

Fall enrolment sees 14.5 per cent increase welcoming second largest incoming class in the school's history

2019

2020

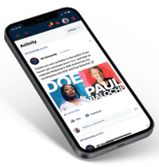
Provincial ministerial consent received to officially change name to Redeemer University; Bill 213 provides greater degree granting authority with 20 new possible degrees including nine possible masters

Dual-delivery model developed to maximize in-person learning while offering remote options as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

***Learn. Forward. Redeemer's 2025 Strategic Plan* launches** with vision for Kingdom-centred, innovative graduates making a profound impact in a complex, digital world

Institutional rebrand is unveiled with modern logo and refreshed colours; Redeemer Royals varsity sports also refreshed

Enrolment increases 13.5 per cent welcoming 358 students in the largest incoming class in Redeemer's history



2021

President Dr. Robert Graham steps down due to health and family concerns

School of Education and School of Business launch with new bachelor of business administration (BBA) degree

Another strong incoming class pushes enrolment past 1,000 students for the first time

Campus bookstore relaunches as 21Five

2022

The $22-million Charis Live and Learn Centre opens for living and studying, with new paved parking lots from the main building to Augustine Hall

Dr. David Zietsma is appointed Redeemer's fifth president

New bachelor of kinesiology and two new music degree programs launch

Redeemer celebrates its 40th anniversary!